



The Fly-By

A Quarterly Newsletter of the
Southwest Region
January, 2010



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The Fly-By is published quarterly on the first month of each quarter. Deadline for submissions are:

1Q – 20 December

2Q – 20 March

3Q – 20 June

4Q – 20 September

Text may be submitted in the body of an e-mail (preferred) or as a document attached to an e-mail (a text file or, if generated in a word processor, saved in .RTF format).

Images must be in JPG format, un-retouched, un-cropped, and at least 1200 by 900 pixels.

Credits: In all cases, please give full grade, name and unit of assignment of

1. The article's author,
2. Photographer, and
3. Any person mentioned in the article.

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Send submissions to the Editor at:

awoodgate@austin.rr.com

Message size limit: 20 MB

News Highlights From Around the Region

The fourth quarter of 2009 at Southwest Region was a time for remembrance and year-end events, with wings participating in many ceremonies for Veterans Day as well as taking the lead on Wreaths Across America.

To avoid errors or omissions, I've asked each wing PAO to send in a summary of notable events, which are posted below, in the order in which they were received. My thanks to all.

Oklahoma Wing sponsored for the first time Wreaths Across America; five Oklahoma City Metro squadrons participated, for a successful event. The November Search and Rescue Exercise at the Alva Regional Airport gathered squadrons from Enid, Oklahoma City, Tinker Air Force Base, Norman, Tulsa, Muskogee and Altus, as well as some Texas Wing members. The training came in handy in December when Muskogee Squadron aircraft assisted law enforcement officials in a missing vehicle search, and again in January when two aircraft and crews from Tulsa and Norman airports assisted in the search for a missing college student.

New Mexico Wing held its annual conference Nov. 13-15 in Las Cruces, with many guests, including SWR Commander Col. Joseph Jensen, and NHQ Mr. Jim Curry. At the Awards Banquet, Texas Wing's Lt. Col. Paul Salos reprised the Frank Sinatra impersonation that took him to the "America's Got Talent" TV show. In December, a highly-successful Winter Encampment made it possible for many cadets to satisfy a requirement needed for the summer's NCSA events.

Texas Wing was busy in December with Wreaths Across America at multiple locations (including Houston, largest in the nation), staged the popular Mountain Flying Exercise at Alpine in October, and helped at the air show at Ellington Field, Houston. Notable was the sextuple Billy Mitchell Award ceremony and change of command at the Apollo Composite Squadron in November. The Ground Team School in Brownville was a success, and many squadrons laid thousands of wreaths on Nov. 11. On Nov. 16, the Texas Wing Headquarters staff moved into its new quarters near downtown Waco.

Arkansas Wing participated in Wreaths Across America in Fayetteville, Jonesboro and Little Rock, and the 95th and 99th Composite Squadrons participated in Christmas parades in

Texarkana and Marion. An ELT mission, flying officials over flooded areas in southern Arkansas and lost person searches kept the wing busy. Two state-wide distributed SAREXs and one local ground team FTX provided good training. The 115th Composite Squadron (Rogers) earned the Squadron of Merit Award, and the 67th Composite Squadron (Monticello) received the AFA's Squadron of the Year award. Cadet Major Davyd Fitzhugh earned the Cadet of the Year award and Maj. Ed Goodman was named the Senior Member of the Year.

Louisiana Wing sponsored Wreaths Across America, with Capitol City Composite Squadron and Ascension Parish Composite Squadron participating for a successful event. A joint Commanders Call/Wing Staff meeting and Christmas banquet was held in December. Central Louisiana Composite Squadron held an open house to celebrate CAP's 68th Anniversary. All squadrons participated in the mandatory Safety Stand Down in October. Capitol City cadets parked vehicle at the Slidell Air Show. Lt. Col. Hardy Cole from Shreveport Senior Squadron retired from CAP.

Arizona Wing was busy with training, as well as participating in ceremonies for Veterans Day and Wreaths Across America. Emergency Services kept several squadrons occupied, garnering needed qualifications for many members, and all units held holiday meetings/parties to welcome the new year. As is customary, numerous awards were presented to those who helped the wing effort throughout the year.

To everyone, our congratulations. 🇺🇸

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Safety is Priority One

Please check the revised **CAPR 62-1** and **CAPP 217** that are now posted at http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/forms_publications_regulations/

Have you taken the **Operational Risk Management** Basic, Intermediate and Advanced online courses? Please visit: <http://www.capmembers.com/safety/orm.cfm>

- Safety must be on every CAP member's mind, at all times.
- Before engaging in any CAP activity, a safety briefing must be conducted.
- Monthly, members must read The Sentinel and follow its timely advice.
<http://members.gocivilairpatrol.com/safety/>
- ***Safety is our Number One Priority.***

How to Submit News Items for this Newsletter

Which Articles Are Best?

Ideally, articles should deal with a wing-wide event, preferably conducted in conjunction or coordinated with another wing (or better yet across regions).

Individual articles dealing with a subject that is of interest to a broad audience qualify as well.

Articles bylined by cadets, especially when the subject is of interest to a broad audience, are also welcome.

Do I Submit Photos?

Whenever possible, include images with your article. Do not embed images in a Word document. Instead, send in the original, un-retouched, full-size digital photos as attachments.

If You Have Article Ideas or Suggestions

If you have an article in mind but are not sure whether it would be acceptable, you need some guidance in writing it, or you would like to make a comment about the material published here, please feel free to contact the editor: awoodgate@austin.rr.com 🇺🇸

Meditations on Pearl Harbor Day

by Maj. Arthur E. Woodgate, CAP, SWR DPA

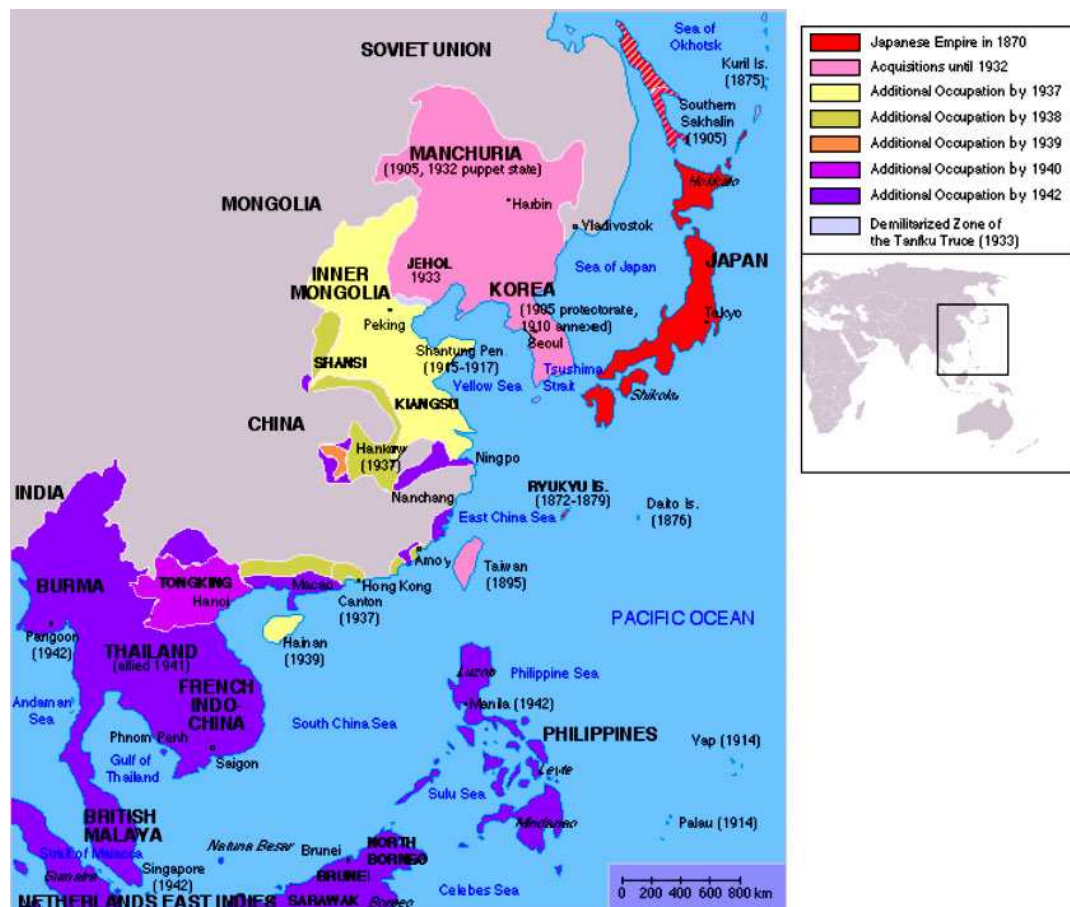
DRIPPING SPRINGS, Texas – On a sunny and serene day, America's entry into World War II was marked by what at the time was taken as great loss of life and naval destruction. Thanks only to an accident of peace-time scheduling, none of America's aircraft carriers had been in port on that fateful Dec. 7, 1941. But the rest of the Pacific fleet lay at anchor at Pearl Harbor, neatly arranged two- and three-deep along their moorings. Following the laxer pre-war routine of a pleasant Sunday morning, few sailors were up, and none ready for combat.

Then the Japanese planes came, on that Dec. 7 of 68 years ago, a low-flying swarm emerging from the morning fog as they crossed the beautiful Hawaiian northern beaches of Oahu Island, cruising close to the ground, approaching Pearl Harbor from the inland side. As they reached the city, at 7:48 a.m., the dive-bombers climbed steeply over the fleet in order to gain altitude and then plunge in a power dive towards their helpless targets. Underneath them – a veritable carpet of death – the torpedo planes approached on their shallow dive of destruction as they released their deadly load on the water. Most planes scored a hit on a warship, much of the fleet was damaged, and many sank. Four battleships were sent to the bottom of the bay (though later two of them were raised and repaired, re-entering fleet service), and four others were damaged.

In the months prior to the attack, Japanese tourists had taken many photographs of each other by the bay, with the fleet at anchor for a background. Japanese Intelligence had studied these images in detail, later releasing them to the attacking aircrews for their use, seeking to inflict the greatest possible damage on the capital ships still at anchor – the Pacific Fleet's battleships and cruisers. Luckily, the Japanese airplanes found no aircraft carriers with the fleet.

Why would the Empire of Japan take such an action? It was a simple matter of junk metal, spare parts and oil. America had long sold these commodities to Japan, which had used them to build, maintain and run its war machine. However, in the 1930s, Japan had embarked on an expansionist drive, invading first Manchuria, then China. Though remaining neutral, America had sought a diplomatic solution. By 1940, Japan had invaded French Indochina and, in response, the U.S. had stopped its shipments of needed supplies to Japan. Deprived of these at a time when it had a war to fight, Japan needed an alternate source other than Europe, since WWII had already started on Sept. 1, 1939, and Germany controlled (and plundered) basically most of Europe. That left only Asia as a possible source of raw materials and supplies, so Japan redoubled its expansionistic campaign.

Pacifist feelings in America ran very high, and the electorate viewed Germany's unprovoked aggression as "another European war." As a result, Americans felt that the trouble abroad did not merit sending "our American boys to die abroad, like we did the first time." In addition, they chose to ignore what was happening in the Far East. Japan, on the other hand, had



needs of its own, and reasoned that America's entry into the fray was inevitable and only a matter of time. Thus, the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters mounted *Operation Z*, carefully planned as a devastating blow that, in a single event, would destroy the entire American Pacific Fleet and leave Japan as the only naval power in the area. It almost succeeded, had it not been for the aircraft carriers not being there, luckily out on maneuvers.

Looking at the changing political map of the world, the naive observer might think that it is all a gigantic, clean game of chess. Well, it isn't. To put it bluntly, each millimeter gained on pushing the border on a map always represents many, many lives and untold suffering.

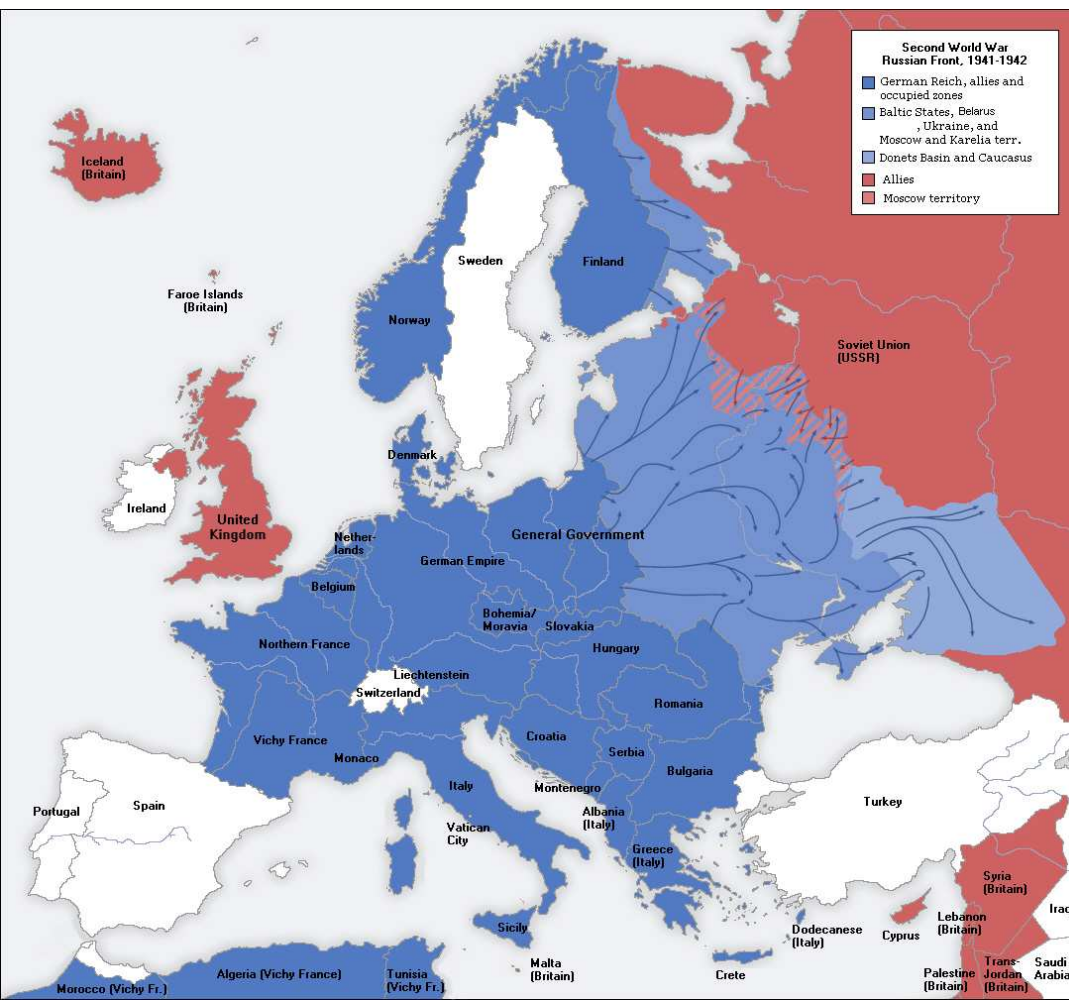
As the war in Europe unfolded, and Germany wanted a reliable source of raw materials (especially rubber), it made overtures to Japan after the latter had gained control of the rubber plantations in French Indochina. Additionally, Japan now posed a threat to the British Commonwealth nations in the Far East, making it a valuable ally in keeping the United Kingdom occupied away from Europe. In September of 1940, the Tripartite Pact united Japan, Italy and Germany, who thus formed the Axis Powers. Germany had not been very lucky with Italy as an ally, since Mussolini had invaded first Eritrea and then Greece without first consulting with the German High Command, and the latter had been soon forced to take over those campaigns and sustain an unwanted second front. A year later, also without consulting Germany, Japan executed *Operation Z*, bringing the United States into WWII. Strategically, if not tactically, this was the single engagement that marked the turning point of WWII. Thereafter, all that was left were the land and sea battles to come, because the final outcome had been never in doubt.

The overall cost of WWII, in terms of casualties, is almost unimaginable. Because of the confusion of war as well as the destruction of most documents, the total number of deaths (both sides included) is tallied at between 62 and 78 million ~ the world's deadliest. Of these, between 22 and 25 million are military deaths; the others are civilians, including victims of the Holocaust and Russian "purges." Overall, about a third of all deaths were military, the rest civilian. Also overall, approximately 3.5% of the total population of all countries involved perished as a result of WWII.

In light of the world's total cost in terms of lost lives and productivity, WWII was a true

economic and social cataclysm. It is revealing that the United States lost about 416,000 military and 1,700 civilian deaths (0.13% of its population), the United Kingdom lost 382,700 military and 67,100 civilians (0.94% of its population), Germany lost 5.5 million military and 2.8 million civilians (10% of its population), and the Soviet Union's dead included 10.7 million military and 14.2 million civilians (14.2% of its population).

Let's hope it was all worth it. 🇺🇸



What Wreaths Across America Means to Me – Texas

by Cadet 2nd Lt. Jesse Carr, CAP, Tyler Composite Squadron, Texas Wing

TYLER, Texas – “Duty, Honor, Country,” I repeated to myself, as I felt the water run down my beret and into the back of my neck. It was an ugly morning at the Tyler Memorial Cemetery on Dec. 12, and my hands began to stiffen at the relentless pounding of the cold wind, unforgiving and vicious in its assault. Several cadets from Tyler Composite Squadron, I included, moved the

cardboard boxes around, getting them in order and taking out the wreaths. Because of the light rain that had been coming down all morning, the cardboard boxes were thoroughly soaked, giving the feeling that we were lifting wet towels.

I glanced up to see many cars pulling up to park, the people left the refuge of their vehicles and made their way to the covered tents near the memorial. As I watched, the scene reminded me of a funeral, with the cemetery all around me, the tents, and the solemn faces of people who spoke in hushed tones.

However, I could sense a different energy coming from the crowd that had gathered. It was a powerful aura of respect, patriotism, and honor. Everyone understood why we were there, they understood the mission, and shared with us, the cadets, in wanting nothing more than to give back to those who had given so much.

Ceremonial Wreaths from each branch of the military grace the memorial monument at Tyler Memorial Cemetery. (Photos: Mrs. Cathy Dunlin)

When we finished with the boxes we made our way to the tents, hoping to shield ourselves from the rain that refused to go away. I looked to my right to see the second tent filled with veterans and visitors, the crowd was not as big as we had hoped – perhaps the weather had played a major role in

that – but I reminded myself that, at that moment, what mattered most was the reason why we were there, not who was there, or how many were there.

Silence fell over the crowd as the master of ceremonies, 1st Lt. Rodney Saucedo, walked to the microphone, said a few introductory words, and set the ceremony in motion by calling for the presentation of the colors by the Tyler Composite Squadrons Color Guard. As the colors passed and the area was called to attention, I could feel the waves of emotion, as I sensed myself surrounded by the hundreds of veterans that lay buried at Tyler Memorial Cemetery. At that very moment, I wanted nothing more than to show them the honor they deserve. Goose bumps





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crawled up my spine, as the familiar notes of our National Anthem played. Strong and humbling emotions built up inside me, as the thought of our past heroes flooded my mind.

Cadet Jesse Carr waits patiently (in the drizzly cold temperatures) to start distributing ceremonial wreaths to veterans representing the various military branches.

After the colors had been posted, Lt. Saucedo returned to the microphone and began to speak. As he did, my mind began to drift from the sound of his voice as it focused on the wreaths, the monument, and the hundreds of veterans that lay buried beneath me. I was quickly pulled out of my thoughts by what Lt. Saucedo was saying. I listened intently as he said, "When we arrived here today to set up, and we were bothered by the rain and cold, I realized that in times like these our veterans never gave up, that in spite of rain, snow, or shine, they were – and still are – always willing to serve." I realized how true that statement was, and those words fueled my inner fire even more, I was now determined not to stop, not to allow rain, or cold, or wind to get the best of me.

Civil Air Patrol has developed in me a deep and passionate respect for our veterans, for our

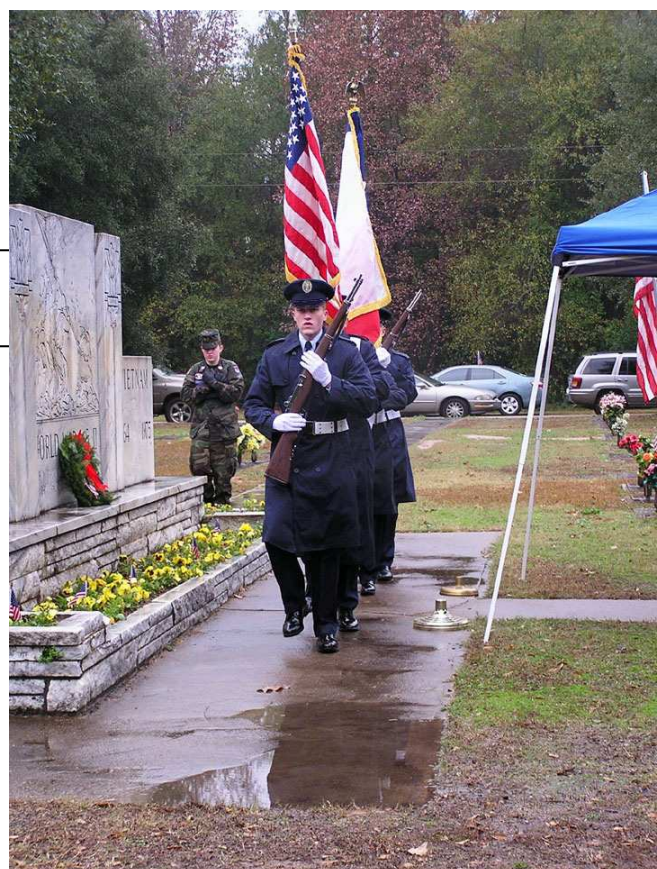
heroes that we must never forget. It has instilled a longing within me, a need to give back to them as much as I possibly can. I know that when I lay in bed at night I am safe because of their sacrifice.

As the ceremony progressed, we had the presentation of the ceremonial wreaths, one for each branch of the military. Four week's worth of excitement, passion, and respect had built up inside me, all waiting for this moment, for this ceremony. I posted myself behind the box of wreaths, ready to hand them out to the veterans who had come to give of themselves by their presence. The first one represented the United States Army. I bent down and carefully, almost lovingly, pulled the wreath out of the box and came back to attention. The veteran mirrored me and I presented him with the wreath, honoring him and our fallen warriors with a salute.

Tyler Composite Squadron Cadet Color Guard marches in to present the colors.

We laid two hundred wreaths that day, only one fifth of the amount of veterans that are buried at that cemetery. Wreaths Across America has given me a way to serve and honor my heroes, our veterans. It has provided me, and many other young people, with the chance to do the right thing, to build character, and show respect for those who created the country that we enjoy today.

Next year, I hope, we'll have enough wreaths for all of them. 🇺🇸





Photos: Tania Stout

Wreaths Across America – Oklahoma

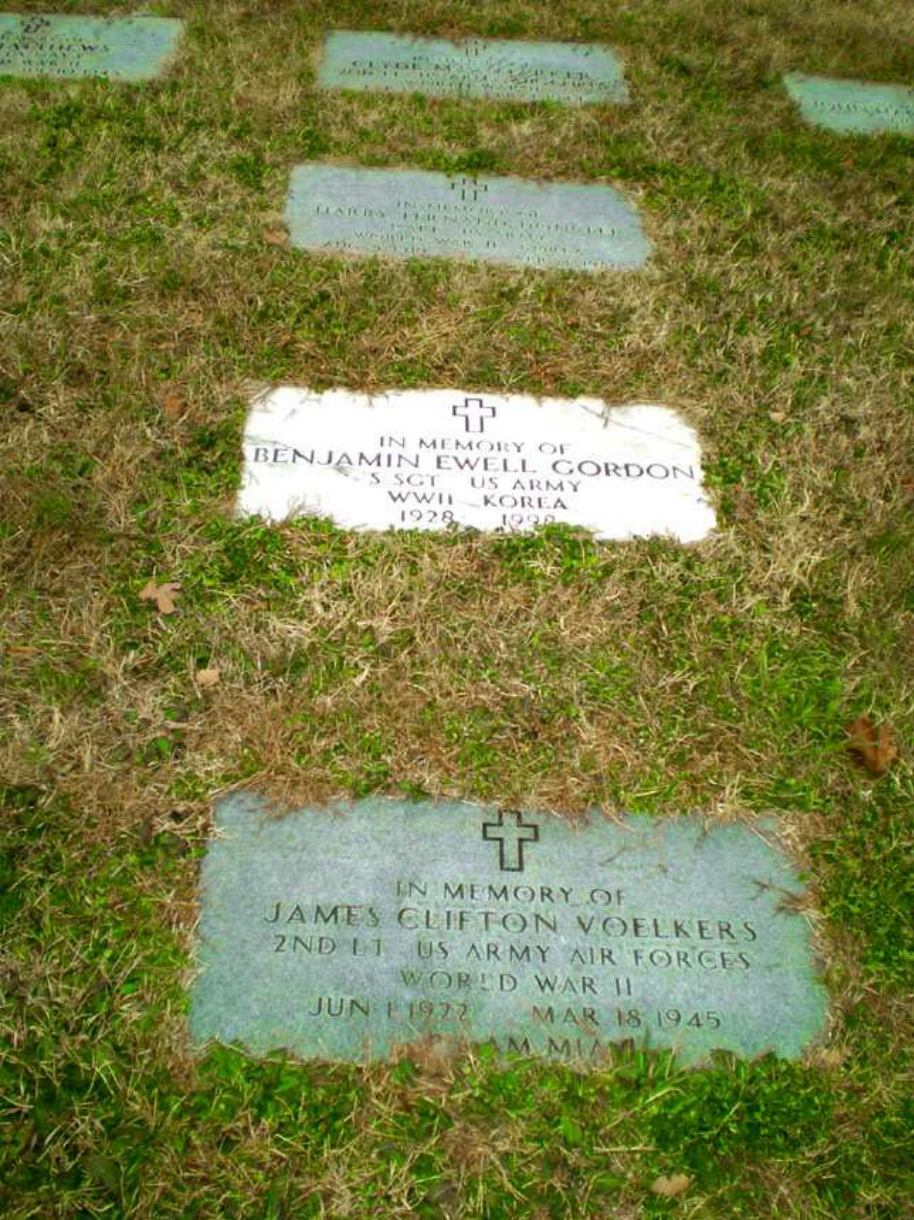
by S.M. Howdy Stout

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. – On Dec. 12 2009, at the Oklahoma Veteran's Memorial in Oklahoma City, with veterans and serving military members in attendance to represent the nation's armed forces, the Oklahoma Wing of the Civil Air Patrol hosted the local Wreaths Across America ceremony to honor America's fallen heroes.

Color Guard member Cadet Master Sgt. Sarah Wood carries the National Colors.

Members of the Oklahoma Wing's Color Guard escorted those laying wreaths in memory of the more than 25 million veterans who have served in the nation's armed forces. Military representatives included a serving member from





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the Air Force, Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine.

It was the fourth time the Oklahoma Wing had hosted the event since its inception in 2006. Previous ceremonies had been organized at the squadron level. This year, representatives from the five Oklahoma City metro-area squadrons participated, along with members of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

"The 2009 event had the largest turnout of any held in the Oklahoma



City metro area," said CAP Major Russell Davis, project officer for this year's ceremony.

All Photos: Tania Stout.

The Oklahoma City Veteran's Memorial is one of the oldest cemeteries in the city, and in it are interred the remains of Oklahoma veterans dating as far back as the Civil War. It is still an active military cemetery. 🇺🇸

Wreaths Across America – Texas

by Cadet 2nd Lt. Jesse Carr, CAP, Tyler Composite Squadron, Texas Wing

TYLER, Texas – “Freedom, Liberty, and Peace are worth fighting for, never stop.” This is what Capt. Robert M. Smith, Tyler Composite Squadron Commander said. At the Tyler Memorial Cemetery on Dec. 12, I listened to my commander’s words as I stood at ease under the tent that shielded me from the rain. Many CAP members and guests stood with me, all trying to stay warm and dry.

Thanks to the fickle Texas weather, we were kept guessing as to what conditions to expect. However, rain, sun, or snow, I was looking forward to the ceremony. I was looking forward to the opportunity to honor my heroes, the veterans of the United States Military.

After the ceremony and after we had laid all the wreaths, I had the opportunity to interview Brant Hubl, who had served in the Air Force for eight years, and was deployed during Operation Enduring Freedom as a firefighter until his enlistment ended last fall. I asked Brant, “As someone who served, what is it like to attend this ceremony?” He was quick to answer, “Having been in the military, I always try to remember veterans,” he said, “but I always find it touching and appreciate it when I see others honoring our heroes as well.”

*Cadet Jesse Carr poses with Air Force Operation Enduring Freedom veteran Brant Hubl.
(Photo: Mrs. Terri Luce)*



Brant said that this was the first he had heard of Wreaths Across America, "I know that the citizens of our great State and Nation are willing to support and participate in WAA, but we must find a way to let them know about it. They need to be aware of what is going on, and the importance of showing our respect for our fallen soldiers."

Now, as part of the Wreaths Across America program, it is our responsibility, our obligation to tell others about it. We must sell as many wreaths as we can, to honor those who are no longer with us, those who fell defending our freedoms and ideals.

Cadet Jesse Carr peers underneath an umbrella to give a young volunteer a wreath to place on a veteran's gravesite. (Photo: Mrs. Terri Luce)

I now look forward to the twelve months before me, during which I'll sell wreaths in hope that our squadron will be able to reach its goal of 1,000 wreaths, which would cover all veteran resting places at Tyler Memorial Cemetery. I look forward to the ceremony next year, to the opportunities I will have to change lives, and the people I will get to meet.

As I end this day, I am reminded that, no matter who you are, you can still show respect for our veterans and fallen heroes. As I was passing out wreaths to the volunteers who would place them on graves, I paused as a low umbrella walked up to me. I peered underneath it, and saw a small girl, not any older than five or six. As I handed her a wreath, I was speechless. I stared in silence as she walked away, the bearer of a token, a symbol, a wreath that was almost as big as she was.

This one little girl showed me the true heart of American Patriotism – even this young girl, ignoring rain and cold, was determined to pay tribute to her heroes. 🇺🇸



Wreaths Across America – Texas

by Cadet Capt. Evan
Petrosky, AFROTC, Texas
Tech University

LUBBOCK, Texas – The Civil Air Patrol's Wreaths Across America program is a great opportunity to honor our veterans. On Dec. 12, I took part in the ceremony in Lubbock, Texas. The Lubbock Composite Squadron had over 1,000 wreaths to place, so they asked the Texas Tech Air Force ROTC Detachment for help. It was great to see AFROTC and CAP cadets working together for a great cause.

The City of Lubbock Cemetery is a beautiful memorial site. The day was cool and crisp. The ceremony began with CAP cadets and senior members laying ceremonial wreaths to honor all the branches of service. After that, Taps was played. Everyone there felt how important this ceremony really was.

Top: Cadet 2nd Lt. Cameron Varner and 2nd Lt. Christina Varner adjust Cadet Airman Stephen Kolas's uniform. In the background, the color guard practices their performance. **Bottom** 2nd Lt "Jobby" Johnson meets the bugler for the Wreaths Across America ceremony. At left background, Capt. Stephen White coordinates his speech with members of the Lubbock Composite Squadron's Color Guard Team. (Photos: 2nd Lt. Kyle W. Vernon, Lubbock Composite Squadron)

Afterwards, I reflected upon how much history was involved, and how it seemed to speak to me. I placed a wreath at a Confederate soldier's headstone, another one at an Iraq War veteran's, and then at many others that covered what seemed to be all the wars in between.

I don't know how to describe it, but it was like seeing America's history personified. These

veterans had risked their lives to defend our country and had taken part in the wars America had been (and still is) involved in.

History spoke to me as it had never before, and the cold grave markers seemed to glow with a warmth I had never noticed before. It was a very emotional moment.

I was proud to see AFROTC and CAP cadets working together for a great common purpose. 🇺🇸





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Wreaths Across America – Texas

*by Capt. Robert Severance III, CAP and
2nd Lt. Gail Pigeon, CAP, Crusader
Composite Squadron*

DALLAS-FT. WORTH NATIONAL CEMETERY, Texas – At 11:00 a.m on Dec. 12, 2009, the Crusader Composite Squadron, under the direction of Lt. Col. Scott Trepinski, took part in the Wreaths Across America ceremony held at the Dallas-Ft. Worth National Cemetery. It was a blustery day, clouded over, with occasional wind-driven rain, yet a crowd of over one hundred gathered there to remember and

honor America's veterans. The CAP squadron's cadets conducted the ceremonies, with assistance from the Addison Eagles Composite Squadron and the Phoenix Composite Squadron. Also present was a group of Marine JROTC cadets from the Irving High School, who served as honor guards.

Top: Cadet Airman 1st Class Samantha Hutto and Cadet Staff Sgt. Ryan Pigeon presented the Navy and Air Force wreaths, respectively. **Right:** After placing the Air Force wreath, Cadet Staff Sgt. Ryan Pigeon renders a hand salute. **Bottom:** Cadet Airman 1st Class Samantha Hutto.



The Master of Ceremonies, Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Scott Gulliksen – a member of the Addison Eagles

Composite Squadron – called for the colors to be posted. Cadet Gulliksen spoke briefly, asking those present to keep alive the memory of the service members being honored on that day. Afterwards, he introduced each ceremonial wreath presenter by name and branch of service.

These were members of the military (current, veteran or retired) who presented individual wreaths honoring their branch of the military, including the Merchant Marines and POW/MIA. Three CAP cadets stood in for missing service members who were unable to attend (Navy, Air Force, and POW/MIA).

Ceremonial wreath presenters were:

Capt. Clint Bond, USA (veteran);
MSgt. Doug Compton, USMC; Navy –
Cadet Airman 1st Class Samantha
Hutto, CAP; Air Force – Cadet Staff Sgt.
Ryan Pigeon, CAP; Lt. Billy Buck,
USCG; Ensign Tom Ludlum, USMM;





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POW/MIA – Cadet Capt. Robert Severance IV, CAP.

After the opening ceremony, attendees were handed wreaths tied with a red bow, which they placed on the grave markers of the military members buried there. Cadet Capt. Robert Severance IV said, "It was an honor to present the POW/MIA wreath. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the courageous service men and women who sacrificed their lives for the liberty we all enjoy." Cadet Airman 1st Class Samantha Hutto said, "It was a great experience and a warm

feeling, being able to honor those who served in the United States Armed Forces and sacrificed so much for our freedom."

Top: Cadet Capt. Robert Severance IV. **Right:** The wreaths begin to fill the cemetery. **Bottom:** Later, Cadet Airman 1st Class Samantha Hutto straightens out an overturned Christmas tree that relatives had placed on the grave of a fallen 19-year-old Marine. (Photos: 2nd Lt. Gail Pigeon)

The media were present at the event, filming parts of the ceremony. Their coverage was carried locally on the CW affiliate Channel 33, as well as the CBS affiliate Channel 5 and Fox Channel 4. www.USFallen.org also posted online their own video production of the event.

During his interview for the local TV coverage, Lt. Col. Scott Trepinski said, "We've got a lot of



groups here, people whose family members have passed away. This is a great opportunity for them to share their stories with us, and remember in the company of people who have lived through the same situation." Later he added, "This is a chance for everyone to get together and remember the people that are overseas, right now, and can't be here for the holidays." 🇺🇸

Wreaths Across America – Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – On Dec. 12 2009, more than 1,100 people attended the Fayetteville National Cemetery Wreaths Across America ceremony organized by the 115th Composite Squadron. The Wal-Mart Foundation purchased more than 6,700 wreaths for this event. Since

attendance exceeded this year's Memorial Day ceremony, local Wreaths Across America organizers hope this December event will gain recognition comparable to that of Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

Maj. David Myers acted as the master of ceremonies for the program, which featured remarks by U.S. Rep. John Boozman (R-Ark.). A ten-member Civil Air Patrol cadet color guard presented the national, state, and military service colors, and a nine-member cadet honor guard assisted representatives of the military branches in laying ceremonial wreaths, each recognizing its branch of service, plus the Merchant Marine and POW/MIA.

Cadet VerHoeven assists in wreath-laying at Fayetteville National Cemetery

The Arkansas Army National Guard's 142nd Military Honors Unit provided a 3-volley rifle ceremonial salute, and Mr. David Rader of Buglers Across America performed "Taps." More than twenty Patriot Guard Riders stood watch over the proceedings, each holding an American flag.

Afterwards, attendees, including members of local veterans groups, fanned out across the cemetery to lay the remaining wreaths.

The 42nd Composite Squadron organized the Wreaths Ceremony at the Little Rock National Cemetery and received an unexpected surprise the following day when they learned that approximately 400 wreaths left over from the Fayetteville ceremony

had been delivered to squadron commander Capt. Ron Wingfield's shop in North Little Rock on Sunday. Thanks to the efforts of squadron and wing staff members, these wreaths were moved to Wing Headquarters on Monday and laid out at the cemetery on Tuesday Dec. 14.

The 120th Composite Squadron, assisted by the American Legion, led the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Oaklawn Cemetery in Jonesboro. 🇺🇸





Southwest Region Annual Meeting and Luncheon

by Maj. Arthur E. Woodgate, CAP, SWR DPA

FORT WORTH, Texas – As is customary, Southwest Region Staff gathered for a face-to-face meeting at the Joint Reserve Base, in Fort Worth, using the conference room generously made available by CAP-USAF Southwest Liaison Region Commander Lt. Col. Donald M. “Don” Hensley, USAF. This year, it fell on Dec. 5, a glorious and sunny day.

A few days prior to this occasion, after a couple of years coveting a Canon EOS 50D single-lens reflex, with 15.1 megapixel resolution, I was happy to see it become more affordable because a yet newer EOS 7D camera with 18 megapixel capability had taken its price niche. So I returned to SLR photography, closing a circle that had started many years ago, when I purchased my first Exakta (though that one used film, as all cameras did in those days).

Since my new toy has a 32-gigabyte storage card, essentially giving me enough storage space to do just about anything I want, I shot away... to the tune of over 100 photos that take 550 megabytes of storage. They are posted on the SWR website, both individually and in labeled batches. Please visit <http://swr.cap.gov/Christmas%202009/Christmas%202009.htm> for them.

As in previous years, numerous awards were presented, as a grateful commander rewarded each staff officer's good work during the year that was ending. Each presentation was embroidered with personalized comments – some tongue-in-cheek, causing much mirth – and as a result the presentations ran late and the happy assembly took a lunch break. The food was delicious, the company wonderful, everyone was in good spirits, and after the meal we headed right back to the JRB's conference room for the last round of presentations.

When we parted company, we all looked forward to another successful year. 🇺🇸



Arizona State AFA President Harry Bailey, Goodyear Senior Sqn. 313 check pilot Lt. Col. Rick Amundsen, and AFA Teacher of the Year Joanne Henning. (Photos: Lt. Col. A. Pete Feltz)

Arizona Wing "Fly A Teacher" Program Gets Help from the Air Force Association

by Lt. Col. A. Pete Feltz, Arizona Wing DAE

PHOENIX GOODYEAR AIRPORT, Ariz. – On Nov. 23 2009, we flew our first teacher in the Fly-A-Teacher program. The Luke Air Force Association (AFA) provided a membership in the CAP AEM program to their teacher of the year, Joanne Henning, from the Madison School District. Lt. Col. Rick Amundsen, Goodyear squadron check pilot, flew Joanne in our newest C182T. She absolutely enjoyed the flight and promises to promote the flight and CAP at her school and also the Middle school.

CAP & AFA entered into an agreement where the AFA will pay 50% of the AEM membership fee. In Tucson, the AFA and CAP had a joint meeting to promote the "Fly-a-Teacher" program, which resulted in eight teachers joining CAP as AEMs. Bob Anderson, the AEO at William Rogers Memorial Senior Sqn. 104 is working to arrange flights for these eight



teachers in Tucson and Sierra Vista. The AFA did pay 50% of their AEM fees, and they are now CAP members.

Last year, Arizona Wing had 8 AEMs. Now, thanks to the joint CAP and AFA efforts, there are 20 AEMs in the wing. 🇺🇸





L-R: Cadet Master Sgt. Josh Burton, Team Leader Cadet Tech. Sgt. Lynne Scholz, Cadet Sr. Airman Shanna Anderson, Cadet Master Sgt. Daniel Haasch, Cadet Sr. Airman Adam Graunke, Cadet Sr. Airman Daniel Scholz, Cadet Master Sgt. Noah Burton. **Kneeling:** Observers Cadet Airman 1st Class Robin Anderson and Cadet Airman 1st Class Cora Scholz. **Not Pictured:** Coach Senior Member Jeff Alloway, Asst. Coach Capt. Kenneth Conteen and Parent/Support Mark Anderson (Photo S.M. Jeff Alloway, others Cdt. Cora Scholz)

Arizona Wing Squadron Accepts the Cyber Patriot II Challenge

by Cadet Airman 1st Class Cora Scholz

CHANDLER, Ariz. – At the home of Capt. Kenneth Conteen, early on Saturday, Nov. 7 2009, led by S.M. Jeff Alloway (Coach), Capt. Kenneth Conteen (Assistant Coach) and Mr. Mark Anderson (Parent/Support), Willie Composite Squadron cadet team members set up their computers and gathered for round one of Cyber Patriot II. This multi-round competition was organized by the Air Force Association, the Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Science Applications International Corporation, and General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems.

Round One was on. There were other competing teams from Arizona: Tucson, Fort Huachuca, Peoria, Dobson High School; maybe more. Some were mixed CAP-JROTC, each working from home ground.

Shortly into the event, the scoring system malfunctioned, so the cadets were unaware of which vulnerabilities were left. During the first round of the competition, the Willie team worked hard installing patches, changing user passwords, updating security, and installing an



anti-virus program as well as many other applications. The competition included over 250 teams across the United States, Japan and South Korea, all of them reaching across the Internet, spanning two continents.

Nov. 14 2009, Round Two.

After the computer system had been set up and it was found that there was no Internet connection, the senior members diagnosed, troubleshot, and established the connection. Halfway through, it started to rain and the computers had to be moved inside. During the last hour, a computer reboot was required; however, since essential applications had been turned off, restarting became an issue.

The team worried they might have lost all their work, but were able to restart in safe mode. The cadets had to repair 24 vulnerabilities on a Windows 2003 server. Toward the end of the competition, the team discovered that, because of the Windows Firewall, the computer had not been communicating with the Cyber Patriot II server for hours. The problem rectified, the team made it to the next round.

Nov. 21 2009: Round Three. Out of over 250 teams, only 36 qualified for Round Three – Medalist Flight. The cadets had three computers to lock down: a Windows 2000 Server, a Windows 2000 Workstation, and a Red Hat Linux 9. The latter was the hardest computer to lock down, because the team members were unfamiliar with that system.

The Aftermath. Although the cadets didn't make it to the fourth round, they had fun, learned about cyber security and how to work as a team, planned flexible and dynamic strategies, and supported each other. How did the cadets feel about it all? In their own words ~

Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Noah Burton said, "It was a great opportunity to learn about cyber security and really showed me that securing your computer isn't that hard, if you know how. When I heard about it, I thought it would be different, more complex. At the end, I was disappointed when I learned that we had been only a few points away from regionals. I had been nervous for the whole thing, since I had limited experience. I learned to use the programs we downloaded, and I'm glad that I participated in it. I also learned how to better secure my computer."

Cadet Staff Sgt. Adam Graunke thought, "When I heard about this activity, I was excited to learn more about computer security. During the first competition, I learned a ton about computers. I thought we did well, even with the server problems, and was sad to hear that we hadn't (probably because of the firewall). Throughout, I enjoyed the company and everything I learned. I thought we would be working on newer operating systems, but it



was more challenging and more fun to use the older ones. I can't wait for next year!

Cadet Master Sgt. Josh Burton had this to say, "Cyber Patriot was definitely a worthwhile investment of time and effort, and I am planning on participating next year. Winning was a real boost, but losing wasn't too hard to take, because it just meant that another team had worked harder, and I wish them luck in the coming event! But it wasn't just about the competition. Cyber Patriot taught us how to better secure our computers, we learned valuable skills, and came home smarter and wiser. I thank all team members, because they did a great job, trying their best, learning a lot more than they thought they would, and having a lot of fun, too! "



Cadet Sr. Master Sgt. Daniel Haasch added, "I felt it was a good learning experience. We were not perfect at it; we had good ups and downs – nothing that more practice couldn't help. One failing was that, on round 3, our server team forgot the password and got locked out, and we got 3-4 vulnerabilities away from going to Florida. Overall, it was fun to get together with friends to learn how to secure a computer, and I would most certainly do it again. I am looking forward to next year, because I'm hoping new people will join the team and, with my experience, I could help train them so we might all go to Florida."

The team's overall attitude? "Bring on the next Cyber Patriot! We'll be waiting..."

– oOo –

How This Article Came To Be Published on This Page

by S.M. Jeff Alloway

Competition was open to 9-12 graders, and I wanted the cadets to get most of the credit, if not all of it. I created the positions of *Observers* hoping that, as the designated reporters/Public Affairs cadets, they would learn to write better for a broad audience. If they did that, I would have succeeded in my goal. I did not expect a Tom Brokaw report, but if someone found merit in their prose, and helped and mentored them on how to write an effective article, something wonderful would have come out of it. As it turned out, Cadet Scholz took to it really well.

I had two possible goals in mind for the observers, (1) to prepare the up-and-coming cadets who could not participate by letting them see what would be in store for them once they were old enough to take part in it and (2) I assigned them to write an article to be published on our squadron website, to keep them busy doing something useful.

Our first surprise came when the article got picked for publication on the Arizona Wing newsletter. And then I was overwhelmed when Southwest Region found it up too. I think it is amazing that it has made it all the way to Region, and there is such interest in it.

Maj. Arthur Woodgate was intrigued, called me, and asked for more photos. They were there, of course, so I sent them to him. He asked questions and also wanted quotes. The cadets wrote them. Finally, he sent a page proof and we were thrilled. He had made us look so good!

"I can't make you look any better than you are," he said. "I'll mentor you, so you can mentor others, and in the end everyone wins." These words mirrored my feelings. My goal in CAP is not to get praise for my accomplishments but to help young minds see what is possible and let them choose a path that will make their lives complete. Thanks. 🇺🇸



Louisiana Cadets Honor Veterans Day

by Maj. Michael James, Louisiana Wing PAO

ALEXANDRIA, La. – On Nov. 11-12, five Central Louisiana Composite Squadron cadets participated in various Veterans Day activities.

Cadet 2nd Lt. Will Carson and Cadet Airman 1st Class

Nicholas Rupert marched in the Veterans Day parade at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Pineville. Carson and Rupert are members of JROTC at Pineville High School.

Top: At right, Will Carson.
Right: Cadets Andrew James and Calvin Ivie.
(Photos: Maj. Michael James)

Cadet Tech Sgt. Calvin Ivie and Cadet 2nd Lt. Andrew James participated in ceremonies



at Grace Christian School in Alexandria.



Flag Bearer's Right Guard: Cadet Barry James at Cedar Creek School (Photo: Courtesy Ruston Daily Leader)

Cadet Lt. Col. Barry James, a member of the Louisiana Technical University ROTC honor guard, took part in presenting the colors and raising the flag at Cedar Creek School in Ruston. 🇺🇸



Louisiana Cadets Assist at Aviation Rendezvous

by Maj. Michael James, Louisiana Wing PAO

ALEXANDRIA, La. – Thirteen cadets of the Central Louisiana Composite squadron attended the Cane River Aviation Rendezvous at the Natchitoches Regional Airport on November 14. The cadets assisted in the event by performing crowd control. Their duty was to prevent the public from inadvertently wandering onto the runways and taxiways.

Coordinator Todd Streeter praised the cadets for a job well done.

Photo: 2nd Lt. Bob Piercy

The event featured original World War II warbirds and other vintage aircraft.

On the photograph, squadron cadets line up on top of a Douglas A-26 Invader light attack bomber. Later, this model aircraft was re-designated B-26, although it had nothing to do with the Martin B-26 other than sharing the same engines. This WWII airplane, in a highly modified version, served in combat as late as 1969. 🇺🇸

New Mexico's Falcon Composite Squadron Wins Cadet Color Guard Competition

by Lt Col Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, Eagle Cadet Squadron PAO

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – Amid keen competition, the Rio Rancho Falcon Composite Squadron swept nearly every team and individual award to win the 2009 New Mexico Wing Cadet Color Guard Competition, held Oct. 23-24 at Kirtland Air Force Base.

The color guard, commanded by Cadet Chief Master Sgt Tabitha Romero, won First Place and team awards for best overall mile run, in-ranks inspection, indoor and outdoor practical drill, and standard drill. In addition, the Fleet Foot Award for the fastest individual mile run time was presented to Falcon Cadet Staff Sgt. Haleigh Ferguson in the female category, and Cadet Airman 1st Class Jordon Hill in the male category.

Falcon competed against four other units, including second place winner Las Cruces Composite Squadron, High Desert Composite Squadron from Edgewood, and two teams from St. Therese Middle School Cadet Squadron, a School Enrichment Program (SEP) squadron.

The Winning Team, flanked by Lt. Col. Ballmer and Col. Himebrook: Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Tabitha Romero (commander), Cadet Staff Sgt. Haleigh Ferguson, Cadet Airman 1st Class Jordon Hill, Cadet Airman 1st Class Sean Kilbane, Cadet Master Sgt. V. James Clark (alternate), and Cadet Tech Sgt. Allen Gallegos (coaching aide). (Photo: Lt. Col. Jay T. Tourtel)



Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Corey Newman of High Desert won the individual award for top written exam score. Cadet Staff Sgt. Emilia Apodaca of St. Therese Middle School Squadron Team 2 was honored as Top Overall Cadet, and the Hardest Working Team Award was presented to St.

Therese Middle School Squadron Team 1, which showed extraordinary heart and spirit for a team composed almost entirely of cadet airmen.

All five units were honored at an awards ceremony presided by Lt. Col. Paul J. Ballmer, New Mexico Wing Director of Cadet Programs. Before presenting the awards, Lt. Col. Ballmer thanked the cadets and their parents for their participation, since their presence had made the competition an unprecedented success.

"Out of five teams, there can only be one winner, but as far as I'm concerned, you're all winners," Lt. Col. Ballmer said.

The awards were presented by New Mexico Wing Commander Col. Richard F. Himebrook. After the formal presentations, each team was invited to pose for photos taken by Capt. Roberta Himebrook, Special Assistant to the Wing Commander.

As the winning team, Falcon Composite Squadron doesn't have far to go to represent New Mexico Wing at the Southwest Region Cadet Color Guard Competition, to be held in Albuquerque during the spring of 2010. 🇺🇸

New Mexico Squadron's Annual Awards Dinner

By Lt Col Jay T. Tourtel, CAP, Eagle Cadet Squadron PAO

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. – With a mixture of seriousness and levity, Eagle Cadet Squadron honored and also poked gentle fun at its members during its annual awards dinner on Dec. 3 at St. Chad's Episcopal Church in Albuquerque. The potluck dinner, prepared by senior members and cadets' parents, marked the end-of-year recognition of members' contributions.

Lt. Col. Paul J. Ballmer, Eagle Cadet Squadron commander, welcomed everyone to the dinner and –after the cadet color guard posted the colors the and an invocation by cadet leadership officer Cadet Maj Daniel A. Paulsen – he introduced his staff and the guests of honor. Alexander M. Newberger, cadet deputy commander, was promoted to Cadet 1st Lieutenant by Lt. Col. Ballmer, was assisted by cadet commander Cadet 1st Lt. Robert L. Timmis III. Dinner followed.

After dinner, the festivities continued with the presentation of end-of-year awards for the whole squadron. "Everybody deserves an award," said Lt. Col. Ballmer, who presented "fun" awards to both cadets and senior members for their accomplishments over the previous year. Some of the more lighthearted awards were the Long-Winded Preacher Award, presented to 1st Lt Philip R. Keay, squadron safety officer, for the unique length of his safety briefings; and the Quietest First Sergeant Award, presented to Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Liam G. Hickey.

Lt. Col. Ballmer then presented the more serious awards. Capt. Robert O. Hickey, squadron leadership, activities and finance officer, received the Benjamin O. Davis Award for successful completion of Level II in CAP's five-level senior member professional development program.

Lt. Col. Andrew Selph, New Mexico Wing Assistant Inspector General, was chosen Eagle Cadet Squadron's Parent of the Year. Although Lt. Col. Selph is not a squadron member, as Cdt. Sr. Airman Kyrie M. Selph's father, he has done much to assist the squadron over the past year.

Cadet Airman 1st Class Henry J. Roberts was named Cadet Airman of the Year, and Cadet Tech Sgt. Alejandro Silva was honored as Cadet Junior NCO of the Year. The Cadet Senior NCO of the Year award was presented to Cdt. Chief Master Sgt. Hickey, and C/1st Lt. Newberger was honored as Cadet Officer of the Year. Captain Hickey received the award for Senior Member of the Year, and Cdt. Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Glenn, cadet executive officer, who was honored as the New Mexico Wing Cadet NCO of the Year at New Mexico Wing Conference in November, was named Eagle Cadet Squadron's Cadet of the Year.

Lt. Col. Ballmer also presented a special certificate to Cadet Maj. Paulsen, recognizing him for having been named New Mexico Wing's Cadet of the Year at the November Wing Conference.

After Lt. Col. Ballmer pronounced the invocation, the colors were retired and the ceremonies came to an end. 🇺🇸

Cadet Chief Master Sergeant Christopher Glenn, shown here receiving the award for New Mexico Wing Cadet Noncommissioned Officer of the Year from New Mexico Wing Commander Col Richard F. Himebrook, was also named Eagle Cadet Squadron's Cadet of the Year. (Photo: Maj. Joseph R. Perea.)





(Photos: Maj. Russell Davis)

Oklahoma Wing Conducts Search and Rescue Exercise

by Cadet Airman 1st Class Raina Kanoff , CAP

ALVA REGIONAL AIRPORT, Okla. – During the weekend of Nov. 6-8 2009, at the Alva Regional Airport, a number of Civil Air Patrol members of Oklahoma Wing gathered for a Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX). They came from many Oklahoma Squadrons, including Enid, Oklahoma City, Tinker Air Force Base, Norman, Tulsa, Muskogee, and Altus, as well as participants and visitors from Texas Wing, such as Lt. Col. Rick Woolfolk, the Incident Commander for the event. The SAREX provided valuable training, teaching and honing various SAR skills, such as simulated downed aircraft searches, urban direction finding, flight-line marshalling, mission radio operations, and missing person searches.

Cadets in the program, ranging in age from 12 to 20, learned how to follow instructions in a high-stress environment, as would be the case when a ground team is searching for a downed aircraft. Learning to follow orders helps cadets mature and function under high stress, promoting heightened leadership. The program uses this training as a means to bring the next generation of our country's leaders to their full potential.

Through these training opportunities, the Civil Air Patrol maintains a state of constant readiness to provide emergency services whenever and wherever they are needed. Whether the

emergency is a downed aircraft or natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods or tornadoes, the program trains its members to help save lives, lessen the suffering, and speed the time to recovery.

As a result, The Civil Air Patrol is an invaluable asset to local, state and national agencies, such as FEMA.

During hurricane Ike in 2008, CAP aircrews shot 44,000 high-

resolution aerial photographs of storm damage, speeding relief efforts to those in need, and documenting the extent of the damage. These images were used to create a photo-mosaic of the affected area, and are being processed to create a better computer model of a hurricane's potential for destruction.

The Civil Air Patrol program is open to anyone, and is an outstanding opportunity for people of all ages who are interested in aerospace education, emergency services, and/or mentoring and

training our youth, helping them become our society's future leaders.

Oklahoma Wing Commander Colonel Robert Castle expressed his appreciation to the 33 volunteers in attendance for all their hard work and efforts that made the SAREX possible and a success. He also thanked the Masonic Lodge for providing billeting, as well as the Alva Regional Airport for providing a base of operations. 🇺🇸





(Photo: S.M. Tyler Nikkel)

Oklahoma Wing Squadron's Cadet Promotion

by Senior Member Tyler Nikkel, Oklahoma City Composite Squadron PAO

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. – Oklahoma City Composite Squadron member Cadet 2nd Lt. Adison Elliot earned the coveted Mitchell Award in October, in recognition of his excellence in leadership, maturity, fitness and academic accomplishment.

The award, established in the memory of airpower advocate Brigadier General Billy Mitchell, marks a milestone in the cadet development program, as the recipient moves into cadet officer rank. Oklahoma Wing Commander Colonel Bob Castle presented the award.

Cadet Elliot, a junior at Bethany High School, joined the Civil Air Patrol two years ago, after discovering that CAP offers valuable training and preparation for those interested in an aeronautical or military career. After graduating from high school, Cadet Elliot hopes to attend the Air Force Academy and become a flight officer.

In the summer of 2009, Cadet Elliot soloed while attending the National Flight Academy at Shawnee, Okla. He also attended a CAP encampment and has his eyes set on earning the Amelia Earhart Award, which would mark this having attained the grade of cadet captain.

Active in numerous extracurricular activities, Cadet Elliot is an accomplished pianist and saxophone player. He says he applies the discipline learned in the Civil Air Patrol to his membership in the Bethany Marching Band. He is also a debate member of the Bethany Mask and Gavel Club. 🇺🇸



Photos: 1st Lt. Sue Kristoffersen

Texas Wing Squadron's Six-Cadet Mitchell Ceremony

by 1st Lt. Sue Kristoffersen, CAP, AEO, Group III, Texas Wing

GEORGETOWN, Texas – Nov. 7 2009 was a milestone occasion for the Apollo Composite Squadron, as the members celebrated a multiple Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell Award ceremony and promoted six of their cadets to the grade of Cadet Second Lieutenant.

After rescuing the squadron from near disbandment, Apollo's leadership spent several years wondering whether it would ever re-mature to the point of being able to promote even one cadet officer. In 2008, Cadet Michael Moody earned his Mitchell, the first one the squadron had seen in a very long time. This year, we had six Cadets advance to Cadet Officer grade, and squadron members feel they're on their way to greatness.

Top: Guest from other headquarters, Southwest Region Director of Public Affairs and Organizational Excellence Maj. Arthur E. Woodgate, Group III Commander Lt. Col. Owen Younger, Texas Wing Commander Col. Joe R. Smith, CAP- USAF Texas State Director Mr. Ed Brown, Kittinger Phantom Senior Squadron Commander (and Master of Ceremonies) Maj. Jim Rodriguez, and Texas Wing Chaplain (Maj.) Ron Whitt.
Left: Posting the colors, Cadets Norman, Birrell, Upton and Alexander.



These cadets, with their own individual strengths, bring the magic of leadership. Throughout their journey in the squadron, they have displayed a determined

willingness to train, work, teach and volunteer for their community, state and nation.

The new Mitchell Cadets (Front) Heavener, Santiago and Walden; (Rear) Nelson, Benoit and Schertz with their commander, Maj. Cheri Fischler.



- Cadet Rebecca Walden is a sophomore at Texas A&M University.
- Cadet Christian Nelson, younger than the rest, has attended numerous CAP activities, including commanding an all-female flight that was picked Honor Flight of Encampment. In addition, as a Cadet PAO, he has many articles to his credits, including reporting two National Cadet Special Activities in the summer of 2009 (the Southwest Region's National Flight Academy in Okla. and the Air Force Space Command Familiarization Course in Fla.). I have no doubt that he will be the new Apollo's first Spaatz Cadet.
- Cadet Paul Benoit has applied to several Military Academies. Currently working to finish high school, he is already attending Austin Community College to get some advanced credits and broaden his horizons.
- Cadet Davita Heavener, a senior at Georgetown High School, is an active member in Navy JROTC where she holds the rank of Cadet Ensign. I've witnessed Cadet Heavener go from parking detail in her BDUs to Beauty Queen in the parade, then it was into her soccer clothes and off to a game, after which she changed into her CAP blues and drove to Killeen to say good-bye to a senior member being deployed to Afghanistan.
- Cadet Priscilla Santiago will complete her fourth year in the Air Force JROTC program at Leander High School, where she's served as Drill Team Commander and Deputy Corps Commander. Cadet Santiago holds the JROTC rank of Cadet Captain.
- Cadet John Royce Schertz, a senior at Georgetown High School, is also in the Navy JROTC program and is a Cadet Ensign. Among other things, cadet Schertz attended LESA where he worked as the Cadet Deputy Commander. Cadet Schertz also attended the USAF Academy Summer Leadership Seminar in Colorado this past summer, taking first place in the Candidate Fitness Assessment.



Steve Walden, Cdt Rebecca Walden, 1st Lt. Debbie Walden, Col. Joe Smith holding a proclamation from the Honorable Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, and Lt. Col. Owen Younger holding the Brig. Gen. Billy Mitchell Award Certificate.

These unique individuals are working to make a mark on the world like no other. These cadets will succeed in adulthood much the same way they've

succeeded in adolescence – by striving to reach their full potential. Apollo is truly excited about their achievements, and admires their very hard work.

. Joe Smith, Lt. Col. Owen Younger, Mr. Schertz, Cadet John Royce Schertz and his mother Mrs. Sherouse.



After announcing that Maj. Cheri Fischler had accepted the Texas

Wing position of Director of Logistics, Texas Wing Commander Col. Joe Smith presented her with a Meritorious Service Award for her outstanding contributions to Texas Wing and the Civil Air Patrol.

Head-count for the event was just over 200, including many visiting dignitaries. In attendance were Texas Wing Commander Col. Joe Smith, CAP-USA Texas State Director Mr. Ed Brown, Southwest Region Director of Personnel and Administration Maj. Harriet Smith, Group III Commander Lt. Col. Owen Younger, Texas Wing Chaplain (Maj.) Ron Whitt, and Southwest Region Director of Public Affairs and Organizational Excellence Maj. Arthur Woodgate. Thanks to all who came, and a big thanks to all who helped. 🇺🇸

Lt. Col. Owen Younger (left background), Maj. Cheri Fischler, and Col. Joe Smith, as Maj. Fischler holds her Meritorious Service Award.





Final Approach – (A guest editorial)

by S.M. Howdy Stout – Oklahoma Wing PAO

"Oscar Oscar Romeo, wind is light and variable, you are cleared for take-off, runway three-five," the clearance crackled in my headset. "Early left turn approved. Report left downwind next." I acknowledged the message, gave the engine a final check before advancing the throttle, my head leaning out of the open cockpit in the slipstream as I watched the runway centerline. A little forward pressure on the stick and the tail came up quickly, giving me a better view as I tapped the rudder left and right to keep the old biplane on track. Before I knew it, we were up and flying. She couldn't wait and neither could I.

It was my second "solo," but I remember it as if it had been my first. A chance flight in an old DeHavilland Tiger Moth a few short years before had turned into the chance of a lifetime – to fly and operate a pair of them as part of a flying career. My new office didn't have a coffee pot, but you couldn't beat the view... and it was fully aerobatic.

(Photos this page: Bertie Opperman)





FZ FLIGHTZONE
AVIATION PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTO © 2007, KEATON PERKINS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Also, it was a milestone, both personally and professionally, and it is still a most cherished memory.

Life, careers and organization are full of such milestones and memories. Most of the really important ones we mark as anniversaries. Another one – often overlooked – is Dec. 1, the anniversary of the Civil Air Patrol's creation.

Founded by an act of Congress 68 years ago as I write this, the Civil Air Patrol would have less than a week of peacetime preparation before being called upon to serve in time of war. Using

nothing more sophisticated than a pair of binoculars, members of the new organization would spend hours out of sight of land looking for enemy ships and submarines and the survivors of enemy attacks.



*Top Photo, Bruce Perkins.
Left, Either Bruce Perkins or
his son Keaton.*

It was – and still is – a thankless task; hours of boredom punctuated by yet more hours of boredom. Anyone who has ever spent long hours in the noisy, cramped and cold cockpit of a small aircraft can appreciate the dedication required to do the same mind-numbing task day in and day out. All without compensation. All as a volunteer.

I'm sure many of those early CAP members wondered if it was worth it. It was.

After months of unrelenting submarine attack along the East Coast, constant air patrols from CAP aircraft forced the German U-boats to find less-defended waters. Armed with rudimentary bombs, CAP aircraft even managed to sink two enemy submarines, and helped the Navy and Coast Guard find others. Not bad for an organization of volunteers in civilian aircraft who had no combat training.

Photo: Bruce Perkins

Anniversaries exist because the events they mark are worth remembering. For us, as Civil Air Patrol members, remembering the founding of the organization in which we serve gives us time to reflect on what we are a part of, and why we volunteered in the first place.

Sixty-eight years later our country is again at war. National resources are stretched thin and CAP is taking on additional tasks to assist local, state and national organizations. It is important, and it is worth it.

The afternoon sun was low on the horizon as I turned final, lining up neatly with the grass strip.

"Oscar Oscar Romeo," my headset crackled again. "You are cleared for the detail as requested."

I nudged the throttle forward a touch, dropped the nose, and watched the airspeed build as I roared by the tower for the fly-by. A touch of stick and rudder and we were up and climbing away again for another pass. The airplane wanted to fly, and so did I.

This was a memory in the making. There would be time to land later. 🇺🇸



My Page

Running just above this page, you must have noticed a new feature in this issue of the Southwest Region's **The Fly-By** – a guest editorial. The author, Senior Member Howdy Stout, is a full-time PAO, as he works for the Air Force at Tinker AFB. In fact, that's how Col. Robert Castle, the Oklahoma Wing commander, found him and recruited him for the Wing PAO position. It was relatively easy for Col. Castle to do this, since Oklahoma Wing's headquarters is at Tinker AFB.

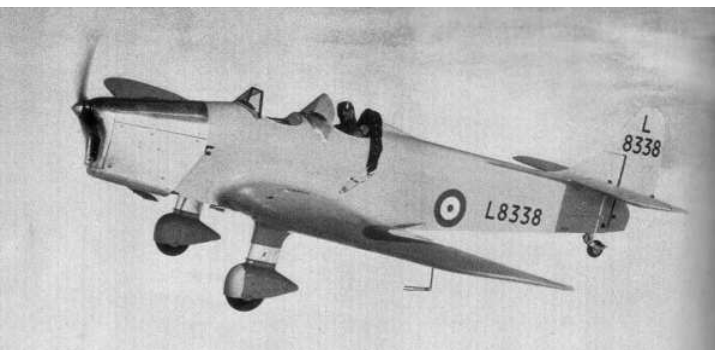
A South African, Howdy is affable, easy-going, and quite engaging. He listens attentively to advice and directives and half-giggles assent in a somewhat disconcerting way (at least to American ears). At first I was puzzled, but gave him the benefit of the doubt, chalking it off to background and personality – and so it was. Would that all Civil Air Patrol PAOs were the likes of Howdy.

"Why don't you try developing Cadets PAOs?" I asked him. "Oh, yeah," he half-giggled, with his inimitable twang, then quietly went and did it. Cadet Airman 1st Class Raina Kanoff's contribution, above, is a great start. I don't know how many articles she has written already, but I know she'll write many more.

Then he sent me the PDF of his first Oklahoma Wing newsletter and there it was, at the end of his newsletter, stripped of images, double-columned into a modest, half-hidden reminiscence. His narrative took me into his personal world and I read on as I re-lived it in my imagination, enjoying his thoughts and memories. You see, I know what a DeHavilland Tiger Moth (right) looks like, though I've never flown in one. I also know that it had its first flight in 1931.

At the age of 10, I took my first flight in a Miles Magister (left), a 1937 design. Not a biplane but a low-wing, cantilever monoplane, the "Maggie" had two tandem open cockpits and was built as a trainer for the RAF. The Tiger Moth still had the edge, though, since it was fully aerobatic.

They shared other characteristics as well: both had fixed landing gear, and were built on a spruce frame. The Tiger Moth was cloth-covered; the "Maggie" sported a plywood skin. If there is no feeling that can match the thrill and power of going over high fences on a spirited horse, there's nothing like an old, slow, open-cockpit airplane to capture a young person's imagination.



I phoned him, "Howdy, are there any photos to go with Final Approach?" "Oh, yeah, there are. What would you like? I've got to find them, but I think I know where they are..." The following day I got a selection, and picked the best. I had hoped for good photos, but these were superb. (It pays to count a professional photographer among your friends.)

In the end, I used most of them. You must have noticed that the articles take "whole pages" with no wasted space. Well, here's a freebie no-secret for you. Just add the pictures to the text then resize the

pictures on the page until text and images find a nice way to fit and co-exist, filling one or more whole pages. The trick is to achieve a harmonious page, and the issue will be balanced.

To say that Howdy's editorial gained a great deal by adding photographs to the text would be a gross understatement. I take credit only for having noticed right away that the text had merit, having chased the photos, and having put it all together. I enjoyed doing it, and the whole issue.

And that's what **The Fly-By** is supposed be. Enjoyable. 🇺🇸

Maj. Arthur E. Woodgate, CAP, SWR DPA
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